Digital Tampering of Apollo Photographs: A Forensic Investigation and Evidence of Image Manipulation by NASA

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Cognitive biases and learned behaviors persist across generations through an education system rooted in fourth-century CE doctrine. Designed to preserve order rather than foster adaptability, this structure sustains intellectual inertia. Like a virus, it replicates resistance to new ideas, conditioning individuals to reject change instinctively.

The Semmelweis Reflex describes the rejection of evidence that challenges accepted and first learned beliefs. Ignaz Semmelweis, who discovered handwashing lowered infection rates during medical procedures, faced—dismissal, mockery, hostility, and banishment instead of recognition. The medical establishment, unwilling to confront its failures, ridiculed his evidence, findings, and statistics simply because of **cognitive hardening**. Forced out of his position, Semmelweis endured professional exile and was ultimately confined to a mental asylum. There, he suffered a severe hand wound, possibly from an assault, which led to fatal sepsis. His death at 47 underscores how institutions protect ideology at the expense of truth.

Updated 3/27/2025

To address common concerns about accessibility, it is assured that no paywall will be implemented. This research will remain freely accessible, as research should inherently be open to all.

Google NotebookLM

A Guide to Exploring Complex Works

Due to the vast and intricate landscape of intellectual exploration, knowledge often appears fragmented and unconnected—especially when against established paradigms—until the underlying structure is revealed. Within such depth, seemingly disparate concepts converge, forming a cohesive framework that only becomes evident upon deeper investigation.

Due to the extensive breadth and depth of information contained within these works, each document presents a dense and intellectually intense experience. To navigate this complexity, readers are encouraged to utilize **Google NotebookLM**, a free artificial intelligence service designed to synthesize information across multiple texts. By analyzing one or all these papers, NotebookLM identifies connections between ideas, enabling users to explore concepts with clarity.

This tool not only answers inquiries with a high degree of accuracy but also offers an innovative feature: the ability to generate an **AI-driven podcast**. Users can engage with this dynamic format, posing questions at any point in the discussion to receive insights in real time. Through this adaptive approach, the vast expanse of interwoven knowledge becomes more accessible, inviting deeper inquiry and discovery.

notebooklm.google.com

Methodology

The research focuses on investigating motives, behaviors, and observations while deliberately avoiding prior exposure to academic findings utilizing my approach which is **extrapolative trial by error.** This approach minimizes anchoring biases that could influence the thought process. After completing the study, academic material is reviewed comprehensively to evaluate alignment with the findings. Typically, the findings correspond closely with established principles, with exceptions limited to nuanced insights not yet formally recognized but widely observed in society. Few contradictions arise with established norms, apart from the integration of multiple established biases into more complex, composite biases that reflect broader systemic issues.

Lehti, Andrew (2024). Extrapolative Trial by Error. Journal contribution. https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.27643080

Evidence of evidence tampering

While constructing a tutorial to guide users through the analysis of these photographs using this forensics tool, I accidently stumbled upon an alteration that required investigation.

When I started, I selected a random photo to use: AS14-66-9305. I searched for it online, downloaded the image, and carried out the full sequence of steps. When I examined the result, I was struck by **how the center appeared a stark white**. Under forensic analysis, this is often the signature of sunlight—its core rendered as an intense white.

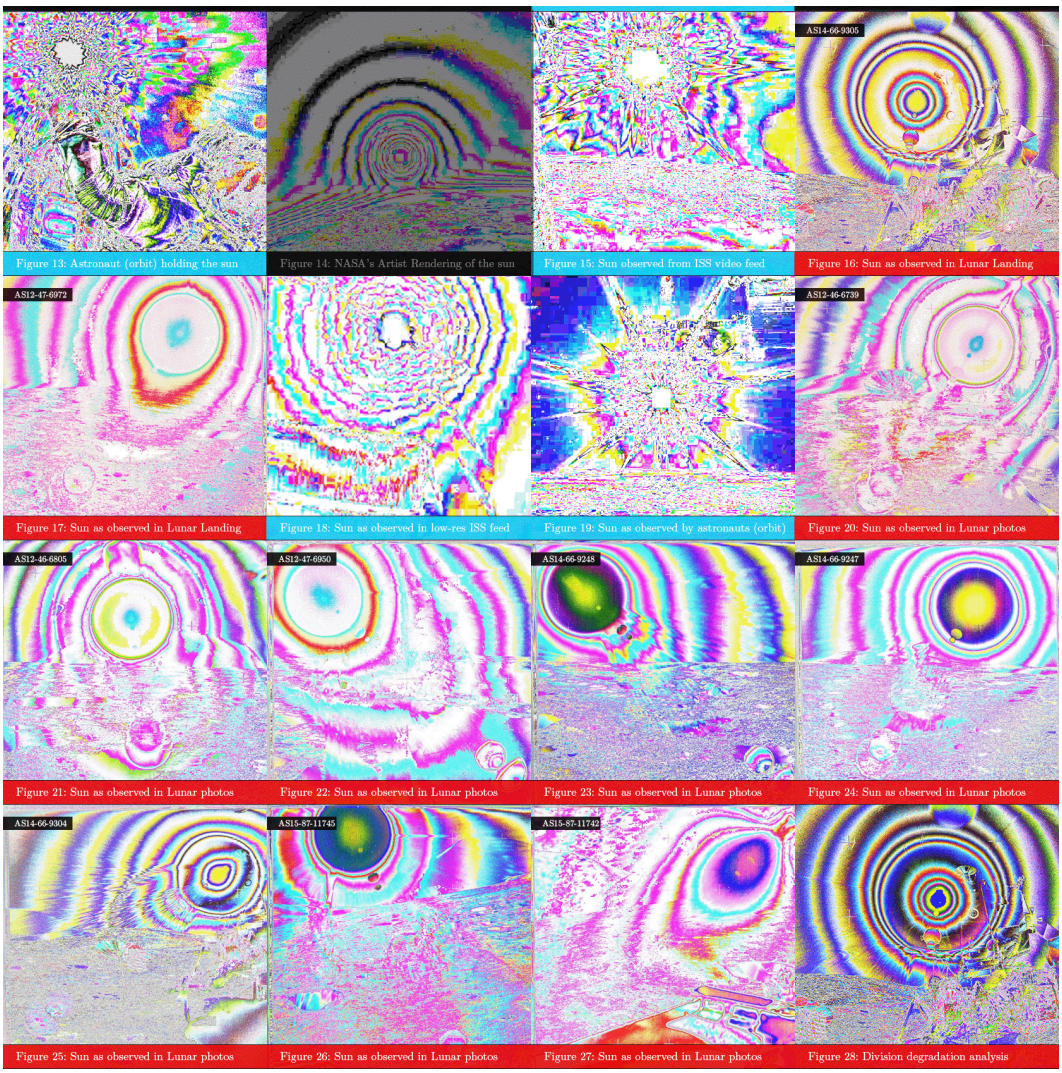


Figure 13: Astronaut (orbit) holding the sun
Figure 14: NASA's Artist Rendering of the sun
Figure 15: Sun observed from ISS video feed
AS14-66-9305
Figure 16: Sun as observed in Lunar Landing
AS12-47-6972
Figure 17: Sun as observed in Lunar Landing
Figure 18: Sun as observed in low-res ISS feed
Figure 19: Sun as observed by astronauts (orbit)
AS12-46-6739
Figure 20: Sun as observed in Lunar photos
AS12-46-6805
Figure 21: Sun as observed in Lunar photos
AS12-47-6950
Figure 22: Sun as observed in Lunar photos
AS14-66-9248
Figure 23: Sun as observed in Lunar photos
AS14-66-9247
Figure 24: Sun as observed in Lunar photos
AS14-66-9304
Figure 25: Sun as observed in Lunar photos
AS15-87-11745
Figure 26: Sun as observed in Lunar photos
AS15-87-11742
Figure 27: Sun as observed in Lunar photos
Figure 28: Division degradation analysis

The image presented in figure 16 is the same as that in figure 28. The distinction lies in a division analysis applied through varying levels of degradation, **intended to uncover the most subtle and distorted forms** concealed behind the presence of light.

This paper was released in May of 2022.

Academic Investigations
The Tenth of May, 2022
Unbiased Investigative Report

The Logical Society

Cite this: DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.6536389

It Is Time for Academics to Get a Wake-Up Call to Reality. We Absolutely Did Not Land on the Moon | The Reason: NASA was to be Cut In 1968.

Andrew Lehti [1]

Fig. 6 No forensic analysis is required. Visually one can see that the hills are not real. One can see the chopped horizon, and much to our dismay, this astronaut is being held up with putty.

Analysis of the Sun.

However, it is somewhat sad. Each time I attempted to post a poll from my profile, bots devalued it so that no one else could see it. I then located a small community of a certain degree, and posted from an anonymous account, and inquired as to what they thought of my miniatures. No one suspected that the photographs were of the actual moon

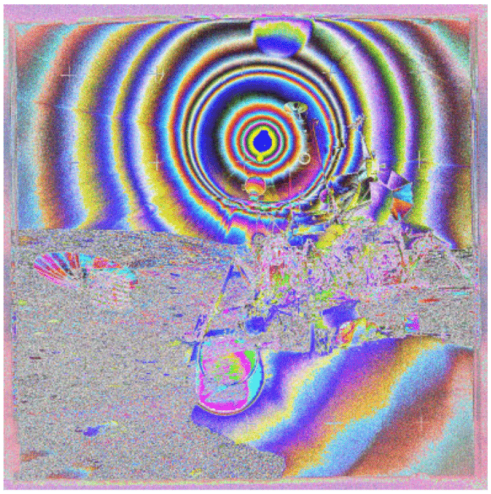
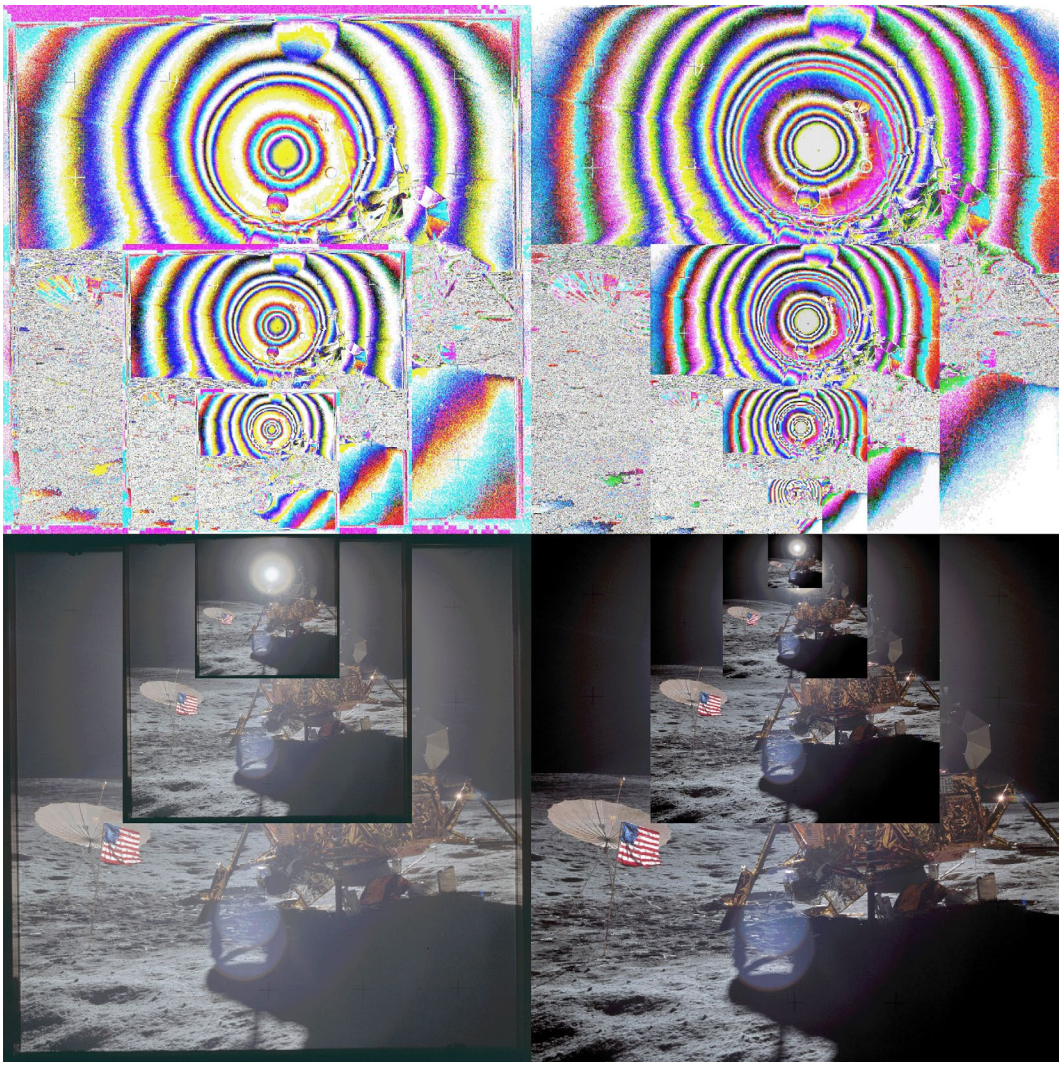


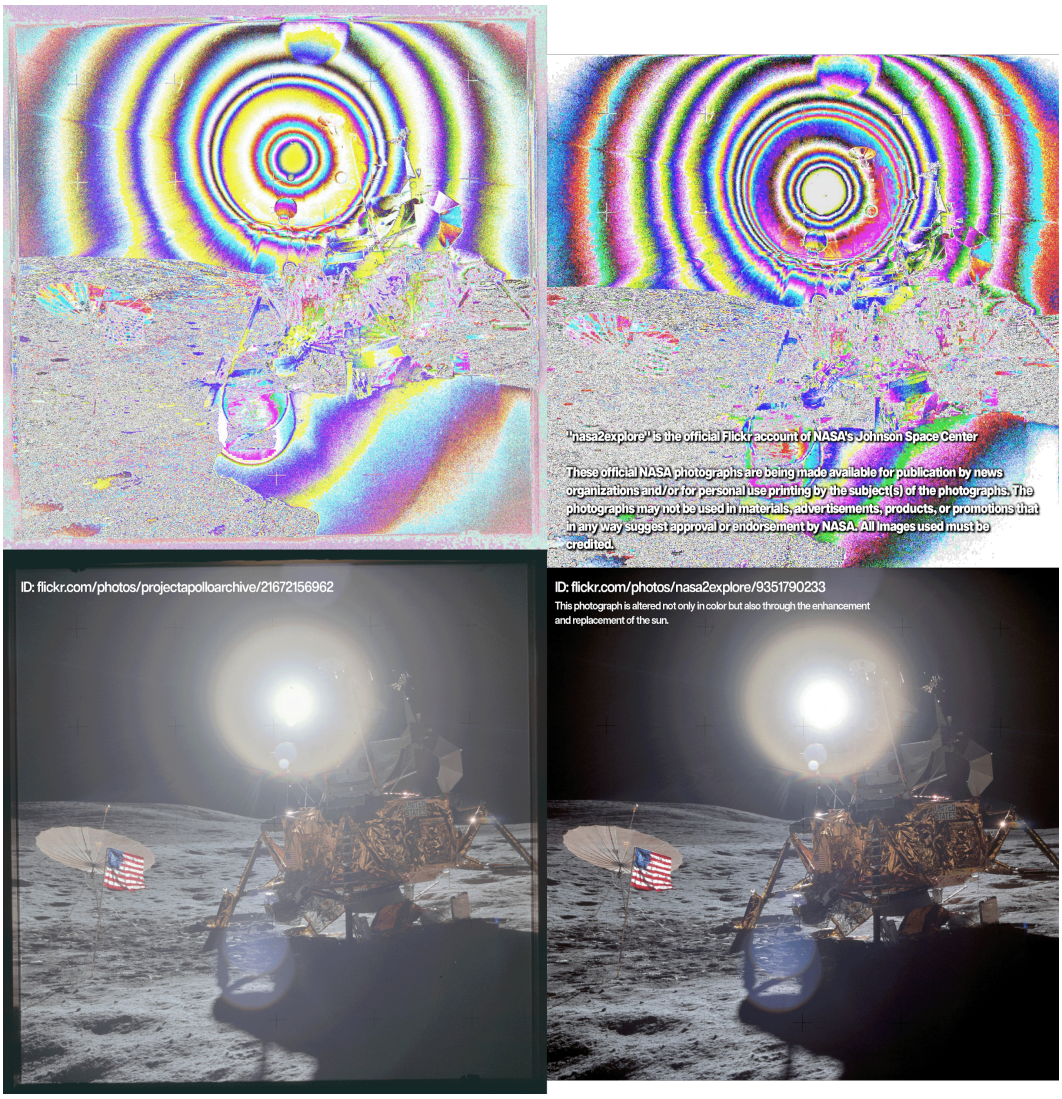
Fig. 8 Do you recall the appearance of the sun from my previous explanation? This is the exact pattern that artificial light generates. This particular image has the outline of a light bulb.

In my paper, I observed that in certain Moon landing photographs, the sun resembled the glowing center with an origin shape similar to that of lightbulb at specific angles, **while none resembled the sun.** By chance, the image I selected for the tutorial was the very one I had previously used to suggest that shape, reinforcing my hypothesis that the visuals might combine miniatures with full-scale actors, based on noticeable discrepancies across the photographic record. When I compared it with the original version, I found that the sun had been significantly altered. Additional downloads from various sources matched the unaltered image cited in my paper, but those distributed through an official NASA account had clearly been modified.

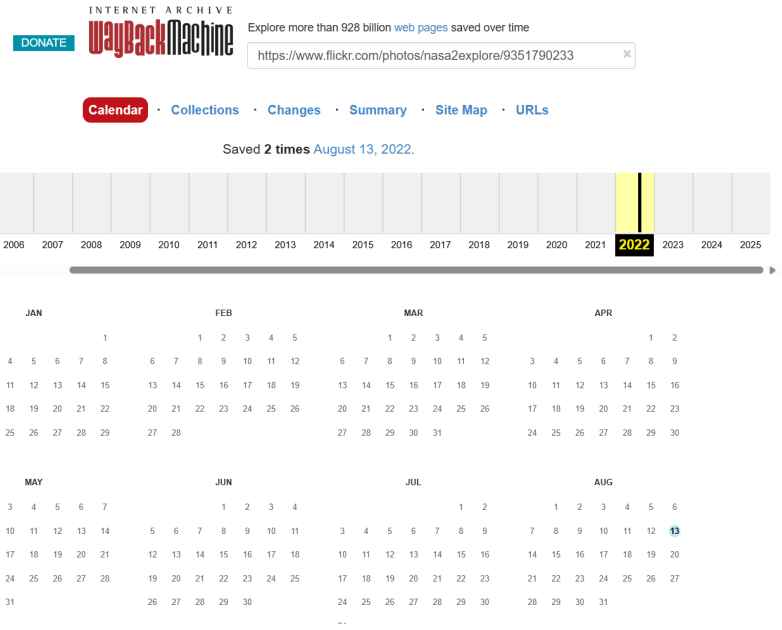


In order: Original, NASA enhancement

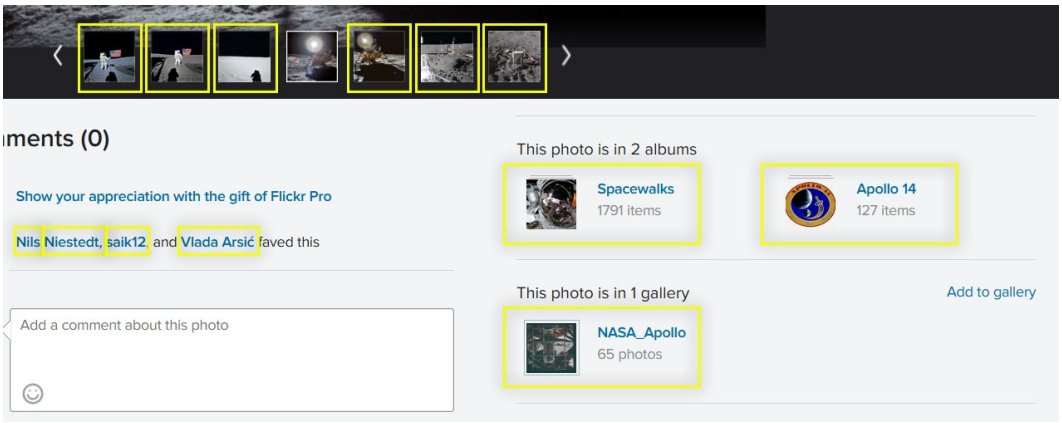
Multiple sizes and compression levels were evaluated, and none resulted in alterations as pronounced as those observed in NASA's enhanced version of the photograph. It is in NASA's refinement where certain forensic elements are lost, subtle traces that persist in other versions remain absent there.


"nasa2explore" is the official Flickr account of NASA's Johnson Space Center
These official NASA photographs are being made available for publication by news organizations and/or for personal use printing by the subject(s) of the photographs. The photographs may not be used in materials, advertisements, products, or promotions that in any way suggest approval or endorsement by NASA. All images used must be credited.
ID: flickr.com/photos/projectapolloarchive/21672156962
ID: flickr.com/photos/nasa2explore/9351790233
This photograph is altered not only in color but also through the enhancement and replacement of the sun.

Wayback URL and the original URL and direct URL. The only archived version of this image that exists is dated ***August 13, 2022***. The paper was released ***May 10, 2022***.


INTERNET ARCHIVE
DONATE
WaybackMachine
Explore more than 928 billion web pages saved over time
https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasa2explore/9351790233
Calendar · Collections · Changes · Summary · Site Map · URLs
Saved 2 times August 13, 2022.
2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025
JAN FEB MAR APR
MAY JUN JUL AUG

When attempting to find alternative thumbnails for the photo, the next step involved checking whether it appeared in any Albums or Favorites. The only album it was listed in did not display the photo, nor did it retain the photo when the webpage was saved. All major browsers were tested across multiple computers, yielding the same result.



All highlighted URLs were assessed, and either were not archived, or did not contain the original photo.

Regardless of this, the available saves date back only three years. **Of the 10,000 archived album entries, approximately 9,850 were first recorded between June 10, 2022, and December 13, 2022. The paper had been uploaded earlier, on May 10, 2022**, while related articles surfaced several months prior to that.

The license history indicates the upload occurred on February 3, 2014, at 4:08:01 PM CST.

Separately, the photo itself states an upload date of July 23, 2013.
It also notes: “There is no license history before July 17, 2008.”

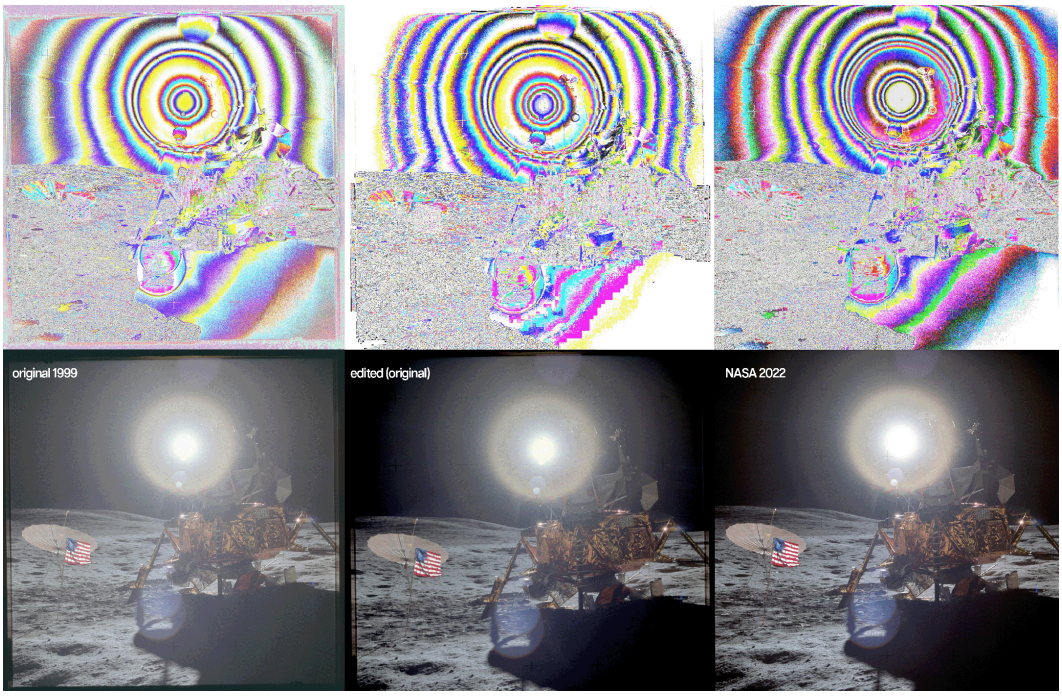
Flickr’s license history includes the exact timestamps of uploads. By default, the platform assigns an “All Rights Reserved” license to new content, with automatic documentation embedded into the timeline:

February 3, 2014 at 4:08:01 PM CST
February 3, 2014 at 4:08:23 PM CST
February 3, 2014 at 4:10:02 PM CST

That only notes a discrepancy in the metadata but does raise red flags. Additionally, the changing of photos on Flickr does not imply that Flickr was responsible. Flickr has effectively supported the archive showcasing the evidence by allowing it to be hosted without issue, unlike other sites. When a photo is replaced on Flickr, existing favorites and comments remain intact.

However, the platform does not retain a history of changes, and the URL changes with each replacement. *This change may explain why most entries in the archive begin after June 10, 2022.* **The paper was removed from Zenodo on June 2nd, 2022.** There is a lot of speculation here, but what is certain is that the photo was edited, and that things have gone missing on the Web Archive.

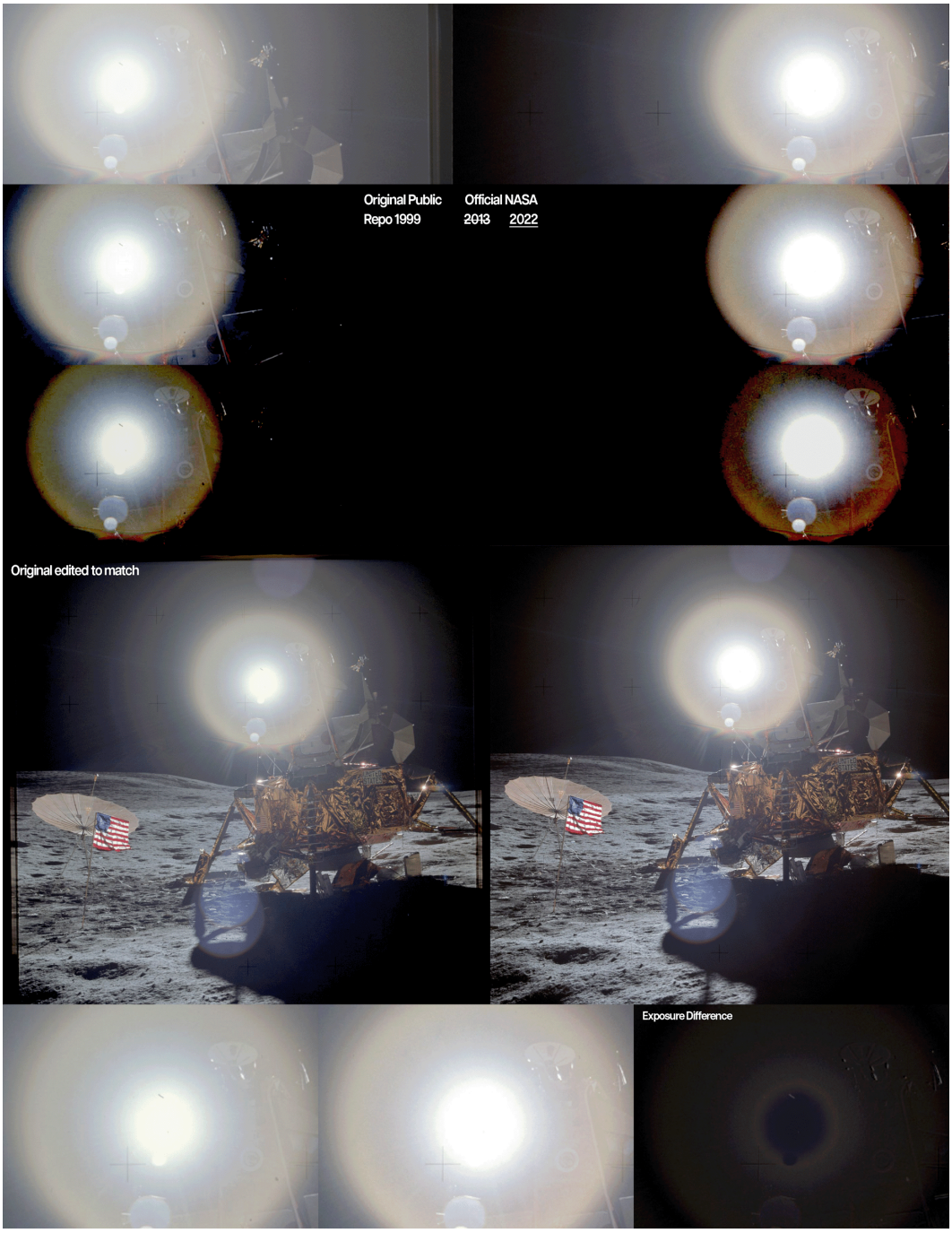
One variant was deliberately **vigorously altered and edited** to replicate the color enhancement and dehazing found in NASA's alternate image, but to an extreme level, *yet even this **did not significantly affect** the forensic features within the image.*



In order, the sequence consists of the original image, the heavily edited version, and finally NASA’s enhancement.

Official NASA archive (claim 2013, evidence suggests August 2022)
Public Repository (matches the original Apollo Project downloads)
Wikimedia Commons (matches)

The removal of the sun from the image is not speculative. The alteration is subtle, and it is not detectable through casual observation requiring image forensics to identify properly so that an analysis can be performed.



For a photograph to clearly depict direct sunlight, it must exhibit three defining characteristics: a dominant presence of the CMYK spectrum bleeding outward from the source, a central region of pure white indicating intense light saturation, and concentric layers of sharply spiked, turbulent patterns radiating from the core. These features together signal the interaction of high-frequency light with the image sensor or film, revealing the physical and optical intensity unique to direct solar capture.